

MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

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Moeteli & Associés
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20 October 2005

International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20

VIA FACSIMILE TO: 022 740-1435,

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Your ref. no: PCT/IB2005/000532

Title: AUTOMATIC GAS CAP ACTUATOR WITH REDUNDANCY

Applicant: GUENDOZ, Naim et al

Our Ref: PWO-J001-001 Int'l filing date: 25 February 2005

ARTICLE 19 AMENDMENT

Dear Sirs,

In response to your Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (Form ISA/220), mailed August 22, 2005, Applicant submits the following amendments to the claims under Article 19 of the PCT:

Claim 1 is amended. No new claims are added. Appropriately noted replacement sheets are attached.

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In response to your Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (Form ISA/220), mailed August 22, 2005, Applicant submits the following amendments to the claims under Article 19 of the PCT:

Claim 1 is amended. No new claims are added. Appropriately noted replacement sheets are attached.

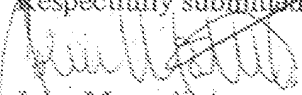
1. (amended) A gas cap actuator system (10, 10') which actuates automatic closing and opening of a gas cap (26, 26', 26'', 74) on a fuel spout (34, 52), the system having :
- a. a gas cap (26, , 26', 26'', 74); and
 - b. a cap actuator (16, 20, 48, 48', 72) actuated by a drive train powered by a non-manual power source (12, 12') via entrainment with an annular fixing element (20, 78), the fixing element interfacing and which interfaces with the gas cap (26, , 26', 26'', 74) via an interface (39, 76) in a manner thereby enabling the cap actuator, when powered, to so-as-to-be-able-to impart relative rotation between the gas cap and a fixing element (20, 78), thereby drawing so-as-to-draw the cap into engagement with the fuel spout (34, 52), the interface and the gas cap being manually disengageable in a manner that, when the cap actuator is not powered, the gas cap is removable by ordinary manual rotation by so-as-to-permit manual use-at-the-will-of the an operator.

REMARKS

It is believed that the amendments made in this application clearly distinguish the invention from the prior art cited in the International Search Report and thus, place the claims in a form which meets the patentability requirements of the PCT. Specifically, no prior art reference provides a mechanism to automatically open or close the gas cap in which the gas cap is of traditional form and may be removed manually, in a usual manner. Further, no reference teaches a system in which a traditionally formed cap is automatically removed without having to rotate the cap. Finally, no reference describes, teaches or suggests a system in which the cap, when removed, is retained on the fuel door so as to be manually removable therefrom.

If the Examiner has questions, he is invited to contact the Undersigned by phone at 01141 71 230 1000 or fax at 01141 71 230 1001, or by email to moetteli@patentinfo.net. If further fees are due for this amendment, the Office is authorized to debit the deposit account of Moetteli & Associés SA, No. 42794.

Respectfully submitted,


John Moetteli
Patent Attorney-at-law

Enclosures: mentioned, replacement sheet

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What is Claimed is:

1. (amended) A gas cap actuator system (10, 10') which actuates automatic closing and opening of a gas cap (26, 26', 26'', 74) on a fuel spout (34, 52), the system having :
 - c. a gas cap (26, , 26', 26'', 74); and
 - d. a cap actuator (16, 20, 48, 48', 72) actuated by a drive train powered by a non-manual power source (12, 12') via entrainment with an annular fixing element (20, 78), the fixing element interfacing with the gas cap (26, , 26', 26'', 74) via an interface (39, 76) thereby enabling the cap actuator, when powered, to impart relative rotation between the gas cap and a fixing element (20, 78), thereby drawing the cap into engagement with the fuel spout (34, 52), the interface and the gas cap being manually disengageable in a manner that, when the cap actuator is not powered, the gas cap is removable by ordinary manual rotation by an operator.
2. The gas cap actuator system (10, 10') of claim 1, wherein the non-manual power source is selected from a group of non-manual power sources including electrical, pneumatic, and hydraulic power sources (12, 12').
3. The gas cap actuator system (10) of claim 1 wherein the fixing element is a driveable ring (20) having a diameter greater than the diameter of the filling tube (34) and disposed so as to slidably and rotatably fit around an end of the fuel spout (34), which the non-manual power source (12) actuates to rotate about an end of the fuel spout (34) so that when the gas cap is properly aligned with the ring, the ring draws the gas cap into sealing engagement with a rim (97) of an opening of the fuel spout (34) so as to seal the gas cap.
4. The gas cap actuator system (10') of claim 1, wherein the fixing element is a worm gear (66) having a hub (72) which engages with the cap (74) so as to be able to rotate the cap.
5. The gas cap actuator system (10, 10') of claim 1 wherein the cap (26, 26', 26'', 74) is retractably attached to a fueling door (46, 62) in a manner so as to permit manual removal of the cap from the door.
6. The gas cap actuator system (10') of claim 4, wherein a worm and worm gear arrangement (16', 66) drives the cap actuator (72) in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction.